

Cape May

National Wildlife Refuge

Fact Sheet

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Jon S. Corzine (D)
Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (D)
Rep. Frank A. LoBiondo (R-2nd)

Contact

Howard Schlegel, Refuge Manager
Cape May National Wildlife Refuge
24 Kimbles Beach Road
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210
Phone: 609/463 0994
Fax: 609/463 1667
TDD: 800/852 7899
E-mail: howard_schlegel@fws.gov

Purpose

The refuge was established to protect migratory birds along New Jersey's coast. It is a flagship project under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, an agreement between the United States, Canada and Mexico to address declines in waterfowl populations.

Public Use Notes

- Wildlife observation trails with extraordinary opportunities for bird watching
- Hunting for white-tailed deer and migratory game birds
- Seasonal access to one of the state's few remaining undeveloped beaches
- Among the nation's top 10 spots for migratory bird observation in the fall

Management Activities

- Approved CCP in September 2002 to guide future habitat management activities and public use opportunities
- Managing for threatened piping plovers along the Atlantic Flyway
- Controlling exotic animals and invasive plants on refuge lands
- New public use opportunities at the Two Mile Beach Unit established in 2002

Highlights

Established with a 90-acre purchase from The Nature Conservancy, the growing refuge is one in a series of protected areas from Delaware Bay to Egg Harbor.

The only stop on the 6,000-mile spring migration for 80 percent of red knots and ruddy turnstones occurs on some refuge lands.

During fall migration, the refuge provides a major feeding and resting ground for woodcock and raptors.

The refuge serves as wintering habitat for a large percentage of the Atlantic Flyway's black duck population.

Cape May NWR is one of 17 Ramsar designated wetlands in the United States.

Issues

Apparent red knot and horseshoe crab population declines; medical and commercial crab harvest competes with crab eggs as a food source for red knot and other migrating birds.



Development threatens the area's ecological integrity.

Seasonal closure of Two Mile Beach Unit beaches during piping plover nesting

Extensive illegal use of ATVs on refuge property degrades habitat and requires increased law enforcement efforts.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>

January 2004

